

PORTSMOUTH POLICE COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 21st , 2004 MEETING

Noon (Non-Public) 1:00 PM (Public)
Portsmouth Police Department - Wm. D. Mortimer Conference Room

John D. Kelley, Chairman
William F. Devine
Gerald W. Howe

I. **CALL TO ORDER:** The Chairman called the September 21st monthly Police Commission Meeting to order at 12:14 PM.

Action: Commissioner Devine moved the commission go into non-public session as appropriate under RSA 91-A to discuss personnel matters.

Seconded by Commissioner Howe.

On a Roll Call Vote: The Board voted unanimously to move into non-public session at 12:15 PM.

The Commission immediately went into non-public session at 12:15 PM.

Action: Commissioner Devine moved the commission adjourn from non-public session and re-enter public session.

Seconded by Commissioner Howe.

On a Roll Call Vote: The Board voted unanimously to re-enter public session.

At 1:07 PM the Commission came out of non-public session and re-entered public session, and the Chairman called the meeting to order. (*One cassette tape documenting this meeting is on file for reference*).

Present during public session: Commissioners Kelley, Devine, and Howe, Chief Michael Magnant, Deputy Chief Young, Captain Bill Irving, Sergeant Mike Ronchi, Detectives Tim West and Tom Grella, Officer Rod McQuate, Budget Coordinator Karen Senecal, City Councilor Harold Whitehouse, Executive Assistant Kathe Hoyt

II. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Officer Rod McQuate led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Action: Commissioner Howe moved to suspend the agenda and move directly to **V. Section B, Item 1.** of the Chief's report, 'Letters of Appreciation'.

Seconded by Commissioner Devine

On a Roll Call Vote: The board voted unanimously to suspend the agenda and move directly to **V. Section B, Item 1.**

B. CHIEF'S REPORT:

1. Letters and Certificates of Commendation and Appreciation

Letters of Appreciation were given to Detectives West, Hart, Grella, Roth and Peracchi and to Officer David Keaveny for their excellent work investigating and solving a burglary that included the theft of a weapon.

The commission then resumed the published agenda.

III. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:

Action: Commissioner Howe moved the Board accept the minutes of the meeting held on August 21st, 2004.

Seconded by Commissioner Devine.

On a Roll Call Vote: The Board unanimously voted in favor of the motion to accept the minutes.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

V. NEW BUSINESS:

A. POLICE COMMISSION:

Action: Commissioner Howe moved to appoint ACO Patricia Tate to permanent status.

Seconded by Commissioner Devine.

On a roll call vote: The Board voted unanimously to appoint ACO Patricia Tate to permanent status with the department.

B. CHIEF'S REPORT:

2. Financial Report

- a. Budget Coordinator Karen Senecal reviewed the status of the budget. Expenditures are actually under the norm. We should be at 16.66% and we are at 14.24%.
- b. Commissioner Kelley asked about status of the software upgrade to the cruisers. The Chief indicated the two vendors are still working towards October 15th. Though there are still some problems in the cruisers, we are being told within two to three weeks we should be ready to go.

3. Grants and Donations

- a. The Portsmouth Police Honor Guard received donations totaling \$350 from the following citizens and organizations: Captain Ferland, Ms. Fran Price, Mayor Evelyn Sirrell, Deputy Mayor Alex Hanson, Ms. Barbara Packales, Seacoast Opthamology, Patches Infrared Pavement, Seacoast Baseball, Inc.

Action: Commissioner Howe made a motion to accept the donations and forward them to the City Council.

Seconded by Commissioner Devine.

On a Roll Call Vote: The Board voted unanimously to accept the Honor Guard donations and forward them to the City Council for action.

4. Division and Team Reports

- a. Information Systems
b. Accident Team
c. Records Division Report

Action: Commissioner Howe made a motion to accept the Division and Team reports as presented and place them on file.

Seconded by Commissioner Devine.

On a Roll Call Vote: The Board voted unanimously to accept the Division and Team reports and place them on file.

5. Letters of Thanks and Appreciation from outside the Department

- a. A thank you letter was received from Rye Police Chief Alan Gould for the work of Detectives West and Leclair in aiding their department with several burglary investigations. Their mutual aid to Rye resulted in confessions and arrests for the Rye burglaries.
- b. A thank you letter from Ms. Susan Hardy for the professional demeanor of Officer Chris Kiberd in handling of a motor vehicle accident in which Ms. Hardy was at fault.
- c. Thank you letter from Mr. Hugh Jenks of the Peirce Island Committee for the work of the police department in response to the Committee's visit to the Police commission meeting of August of last year.

C. PATROL SERVICES BUREAU:

1. Log Activity Reports

Deputy Young stressed that DUI stats continue to be way up over last year.

2. Communications Center Report

Deputy Young reported the department has now gone two full years without a turnover in Dispatch. This reflects major proactive efforts by the department to address the issues and problems highlighted by the ECC study done in 2001.

3. FTO Report

4. Auxiliary Monthly Activity Report

Commissioner Howe informed the commission that the Auxiliary Supervisor pay provision and the increase in the Crossing Guard rate has passed the City Council.

5. Special Events in the City

6. Officers Out Sick or Injured

D. CITY PROSECUTOR REPORT

E. BUREAU OF INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES

Deputy Young indicated that members of our drug unit have distributed brochures to the hotels and motels in the City advising management their rooms may be being used as temporary methamphetamine labs. The businesses were advised of indicators and of the proper response if they suspect such activity.

VI. MISCELLANEOUS OTHER BUSINESS

Commissioner Kelley spoke briefly on the need for greater involvement by the public in being observant and willing to contact us with their concerns. People need to respond to that feeling of “something just not seeming right”. It is important that they not feel embarrassed by the possibility that the police were notified for nothing.

As Chief Magnant has said on numerous occasions, “Let us make that determination. Let us know, and we will make the determination. It is not an inconvenience. It is our job. Let us know if something seems out of place.”

In another matter, Councilor Whitehouse, who is also on the Peirce Island Committee, thanked the Commission and the Chief for their very hands-on response to the requests of the Committee.

VII. MOTION TO ADJOURN

There being no further business before this Commission,

Commissioner Devine moved the September 21st meeting be adjourned.

Seconded by Commissioner Howe.

On a Roll Call Vote: The Board unanimously voted in favor of the motion at 1:36 P.M.

VIII. NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, October 19th, 2004

Respectfully Submitted By Kathleen Hoyt, Administrative Aide

Reviewed By Commissioner Gerald Howe, Clerk